

NOTES TO THE NATION NOVEMBER 26, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Many citizens have expressed renewed interest in making amendments to the Osage Constitution.

At this time about the only practical way to make amendments is for the Congress to pass a resolution that allows a vote of the people at the next general or special election. Only by a vote of the citizens can the Constitution be amended. The Constitution does allow for a referendum petition calling for a vote, but at this time it is nearly impossible to obtain the required number of signatures.

Several amendments have been proposed but none have ever received the required 10 votes in Congress. We have gotten closer as time has gone on on but still miss by one vote.

Three times, I have introduced an amendment changing "eligible for membership" for 1906 descendants to "have the right to membership" and I intend to introduce it again.

There have been several good amendments proposed that would reduce the powers of the Executive Branch. Some had to do with the Executive Branch control over enterprise boards and one would reduce the number of votes Congress needs to over ride vetoes.

At this time any four members of Congress can stop an over ride and any three can deny the people the right to vote on amendments to the Constitution.

I have attached a voting history on all the amendments that have been proposed and a chart that will enable you to access the actual Resolution if you wish to see the details.

Kugee

NEWS ARTICLES FROM THE PAST
<p>These articles are taken from Kansas newspapers from the late 1800's. The news was written from the white man's point of view and sometimes the Osage didn't get treated fairly. (THIS ONE IS AN EXCEPTION) These excerpts are passed on for their historical value only.</p>

Walnut Valley Times, June 10, 1870.

COWLEY COUNTY. CRESWELL, MAY 25, 1870.

Editor *Walnut Valley Times*: Understanding that reports of Indian hostilities are being circulated in your vicinity, I will ask the use of your columns to correct misapprehensions.

The sum total of casualties is as follows: nobody killed or scalped; nobody hurt; two men scared by some fast young Osages. The gist of the matter lies in the fact that the Osages are camped on the Arkansas, below the mouth of the Grouse, and desire that no homes be built by the whites on this part of the valley not quite three miles in length or on Chilocky Creek, which flows from the west into the Arkansas near the State line. They therefore ordered out of this region one family, and one young man who was there at work. No violence has been used toward anybody, and none will be used.

Certain exaggerated reports have been spread by parties who wanted to keep certain tracts of land vacant till their own particular friends should arrive from the east; and by others, who wish to keep emigrants from passing through Eldorado, Augusta, etc., into the country below.

Permit me to say that the policy of certain merchants and other parties at Eldorado is rather short-sighted in this matter. To build up a wealthy and prosperous county here is to insure the prosperity and future greatness of Eldorado. Your town is now growing rich from the stream of immigration pouring hither through your streets. Your people cannot afford to so treat this current as to force its diversion into other and more direct routes.

Creswell was never more prosperous than now. Before November 1st, this will be the largest town in the Walnut Valley, Eldorado excepted. There are houses and places of business now under contract to insure this. We have been blessed with heavy and abundant rains, two showers falling on the night of the 23rd and morning of the 24th, which completely saturated the soil.

The Osages have gone out upon the plains. We have enjoyed an interview with Chetopah, Numpawalla, and others. They are friendly and peaceable. If the average of white men would be as orderly and law-abiding as the Osages, the legal profession would soon become extinct.